

“WHEN FRANKENSTEIN CAME TO MATLOCK”

by

Kevin Fegan

New stage play for young people.

**Commissioned by The Palace Theatre Mansfield, a main stage
production for The Palace Youth Theatre.**

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Email: kev@kevinfegan.co.uk

Website: www.kevinfegan.co.uk

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In Mary Shelley's famous novel, Dr. Frankenstein is pursued by the monster as he travels to the remote Orkney Islands to create a bride for his monster. It is a curious fact that, en route, they stop off in Matlock. In Kevin Fegan's version, the monster meets a spirited local lass and decides to stay and settle down with her.

200 years later, in the year 2018, there have been rapid advances in genetic engineering. In Matlock, the monster's descendants run a failing motorcycle spares shop, "Percy's Parts". When Percy Frankenstein goes into partnership with renegade genetic surgeon, Godwin, his motorcycle shop becomes a front for a lucrative illegal trade in human body parts. A funny, fast-moving and fantastical play for young people.

WRITER'S PROGRAMME NOTE

On page 134 of Mary Shelley's famous novel, Dr. Victor Frankenstein describes how he and his wife came to rest in Matlock, which "resembled the scenery of Switzerland; but everything is on a lower scale". The monster is shadowing them on their journey to the Orkneys where the good doctor has promised to create him a bride. When I read this, I knew intuitively, as a playwright, that there was a play here. I had a title in my notebook, "When Frankenstein Came To Matlock", but that's all. When The Palace Theatre commissioned me to write a play for their senior youth theatre, I knew this was the play I wanted to write. So I let my imagination fly. With the accelerating progress in genetics, we are entering a new "Frankenstein age". I was interested in re-addressing Mary Shelley's themes in a contemporary way and I was determined we could all have a lot of fun doing it! Matlock is a regular destination for people from this area, you'll often find me down there on my motorbike along with thousands of others. But after this play, Matlock will never quite look the same again...

Kevin Fegan

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LIST OF CHARACTERS

YEAR 1818

Dr. Victor Frankenstein
Elizabeth Frankenstein
Franky
Graverobbers
Mary
Alphonse
Villagers
Town Crier
Horace
Horace’s Mum

YEAR 2018

De Lacey
Percy
Doctor Waldman
Bikers
Mozzy
Worm
Scorpion
Roach
Crab
Detective
Godwin
Ambulance-Chaser 1
Ambulance-Chaser 2
Ambulance-Chaser 3
Ambulance-Chaser 4
Elderly Woman
Ghost of Mary Shelley
Ambulance Crew 1
Ambulance Crew 2

“WHEN FRANKENSTEIN CAME TO MATLOCK” by Kevin Fegan

SCENE 1

MUSIC. THE YEAR IS 1818. PRE-SET, IN A CEMETERY, IS MARY, A 19TH CENTURY GOTH. DR VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN AND HIS HEAVILY PREGNANT WIFE, ELIZABETH, ARRIVE IN MATLOCK. VICTOR IS WEIGHED DOWN WITH BAGS. VICTOR’S MONSTER, FRANKY, IS FOLLOWING THEM.

VICTOR

We should be safe here for a while.

ELIZABETH

I can’t go on living like this, Victor, not in my condition.

VICTOR

No dear.

ELIZABETH

Where in hell are we?

VICTOR

Matlock Bath, dear.

ELIZABETH

Did you say “bath”?

(TALKING TO HER BABY)

Would baby like a nice hot bath?

VICTOR

We can’t stay long, my sweet.

ELIZABETH

You know I like to take my time in the bathroom.

VICTOR

A few days at most.

ELIZABETH

It doesn't take me that long.

VICTOR

We have to reach Scotland before the Winter.

ELIZABETH

Travelling takes forever, it's so tedious. Why can't we fly? We'd be there in less than an hour.

VICTOR

Because they've not invented the aeroplane yet.

ELIZABETH

What about the motor car?

VICTOR

'Fraid not.

ELIZABETH

Train?

VICTOR

Any day now. We could always go by canal.

ELIZABETH

No way, I could walk faster than a barge.

VICTOR

Stagecoach it is then, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

This life on the run, Victor, it really doesn't suit my complexion.

VICTOR

Keep your voice down! We are not on the run, Elizabeth, how many times –

ELIZABETH

No, you're just wanted by Interpol.

VICTOR

Interpol hasn't been invented yet.

FRANKY APPROACHES.

FRANKY

Franky was invented.

VICTOR

I thought I told you to keep a low profile.

FRANKY

Sorry, daddy.

VICTOR

And don't call me daddy.

FRANKY

Sorry, Dr. Victor.

Dr. Victor go Scotland, make bride for Franky, (POUTING) with lips like this for kissing and big boobies and strong child-bearing hips for –

VICTOR

Yes, yes, Dr. Victor make beautiful zombie bride for Franky to play with.

ELIZABETH

Er? Bath, Victor?

FRANKY

Dr Victor promise.

VICTOR

Yes, yes, I promise.

FRANKY TAKES A NOTEBOOK OUT OF HIS POCKET.

FRANKY

Franky have Dr Victor's journal for safekeeping, 'til zombie bride delivered in good working order.

VICTOR

You take care of that journal, it's a national treasure. One day, the Royal Society will appreciate my work.

ELIZABETH

Victor, Bath!

VICTOR

Coming my sweet.

Keep yourself hidden, man, we don't want you frightening the local schoolgirls or you'll get us all thrown in jail.

ELIZABETH AND VICTOR LEAVE.

FRANKY

Franky understand. Franky hide butt-ugly face in cemetery and dream of zombies.

FRANKY GOES TO THE CEMETERY.

SCENE 2

MUSIC. AT THE CEMETERY. MARY IS AT HER MOTHER'S GRAVE.
FRANKY WATCHES FROM A DISTANCE. GRAVEROBBERS CHORUS
STALK THE CEMETERY, UNSEEN BY MARY. TOWARDS THE END
FRANKY JOINS THE GRAVEROBBERS IN THEIR RAP.

GRAVEROBBERS' RAP

Borrowers from death
Form an ord'rly queue,
Stalkers of the cemet'ry,
The graverobbing crew.
It's not a nice job, but somebody's got to do it.
Dig those raw materials
Freshly laid to rest,
Fully-fledged ambassadors
Of scientific progress.
It's not a nice job, but somebody's got to do it.
When it comes to death
There is no free will,
If the pox doesn't get you
Then poverty will.
It's not a nice job, but somebody's got to do it.
It comes to us all
From pauper to king,
The dead don't mind it,
They don't feel a thing.

It's not a nice job, but somebody's got to do it.

Tell me why, the hue and cry

From the healthy and the living?

It's hard enough for decent men

To earn an honest shilling.

It's not a nice job, but somebody's got to do it.

Borrowers from death

Form an ord'rly queue,

Stalkers of the cemet'ry,

The graverobbing crew.

GRAVEROBBERS & FRANKY

It's not a nice job, but somebody's got to do it.

GRAVEROBBERS

Dig those raw materials

Freshly laid to rest,

Fully-fledged ambassadors

Of scientific progress.

GRAVEROBBERS & FRANKY

It's not a nice job, but somebody's got to do it.

GRAVEROBBERS AVOID MARY. FRANKY APPROACHES HER
CAREFULLY. SHE DOESN'T SEE HIM AT FIRST.

MARY

Hi mom, it's only me. I've washed your marker and picked the weeds. Sorry it's been a while. I'm working now. On the Enclosures. Fences going up everywhere, dividing the land like cemetery plots, they are. Sorry. You'd hardly recognise me, I'm all grown up. Not that you'd recognise me anyway. Never had the chance, did you? Dad tells me about you, when he's had a few jars, which is most of the time these days. He says you were dark like me, on the outside; but not dark, like me, on the inside. He says you were the strong one, says you thought women are the stronger sex. Have to be, from what I can see, it's the women who carry the children on our backs, and the house, and the husband Aint no big strong man gonna do it for you, is there?

FRANKY

Blackbirds feed on worms that eat the dead.

MARY

Hey, you're not one of them graverobbers, are you?

FRANKY

Franky come here to sit with dead people.

MARY

That's nice. Only this is my mom, see, and I aint gonna let no robbers get hold of her lovely bones.

FRANKY HOLDS OUT HIS HAND TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF.

MARY

(CONTINUED)

It's always the poor they pick on.

FRANKY

Franky.

MARY

(SHAKING HANDS)

Oh, er, Mary.

FRANKY

"Mary". Franky like that name.

Dr.Victor says, 'No one need ever die,' Mary.

MARY

Are you one of those raving evangelists? I mean, life after death sounds cool, if you're a zombie, but all that heaven stuff sucks.

FRANKY

Mary looks like zombie.

MARY

Thanks, you're pretty cool yourself. Nice bolts, dude.

FRANKY

Dr.Victor says, 'Franky an abomination'.

MARY

Who is this Dr.Victor?

FRANKY

Mary think Franky is evil?

MARY

Yeah, totally, evil rocks.

FRANKY

'Energy never disappears, it changes'.

MARY

You're a lot smarter than you look.

FRANKY

Dr.Victor smart, teach Franky.

MARY

He's your teacher?

FRANKY

Daddy. But no like call him daddy.

MARY

Step-dads, who'd have them,eh? I had a step-mum once, soon got rid of her.

FRANKY

Elizabeth not Franky's mummy.

MARY

Victor's wife, right?

FRANKY

Elizabeth baby's mummy.

MARY

You talk funny.

FRANKY

English second language.

MARY

Where you from?

FRANKY

Sea of Ice.

MARY

Awesome.

FRANKY

Sea of Ice create this valley, "Little Switzerland".

MARY

You know about glaciers? I love glaciers. I'd love to live in the North Pole.

FRANKY

Franky like North Pole.

MARY

You've been there? Wicked. You got spirit, man.

FRANKY

No, don't think Dr. Victor gave me one of those.

LIGHTNING. FRANKY TAKES A MOMENT TO ENJOY IT.

MARY

We should get under cover before the rain comes. Come on, Franky, you'll get struck.

FRANKY

Yes, please.

MARY

Get a life, Franky.

FRANKY

Franky got life.

MARY

Are you for real?

FRANKY

Franky 'homo ferus'.

MARY

Is that like homosexual?

FRANKY

Franky run wild and natural in the country.

MARY

What, like naked and stuff? I'm more into supernatural myself, but I can live with that. You're totally weird, dude, come on.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING. THEY SHELTER. THERE'S NOT MUCH ROOM SO THEY'RE FORCED TO BE CLOSE.

How you feeling, Franky?

FRANKY

Alive.

MARY

Me too, dude.

FRANKY

(CURIOUS)

Bolt through Mary's nose?

MARY

You like it? I'm thinking of getting one through my tongue.

FRANKY

Is it good for attracting electricity?

MARY

Well, some people find it sexy. I mean, why do you have bolts through your neck? In case your head falls off?

FRANKY

Yes.

MARY

Yeah, right.

FRANKY

And for connecting to battery.

MARY

That is seriously weird, dude. A friend of mine, he has a bolt through his "thing". You don't have a bolt through your, er, do you?

FRANKY

What is "thing"?

MARY

You know, a bolt, through your thing, your pecker?

FRANKY

Ah, Franky understand, you would like to see Franky's member, yes?

MARY

No! Not right now! Just asking, dude.

FRANKY

Good. 'Cause Franky saving it for his bride.

MARY

Aaahh, you're such a sweetie. No sex before marriage, that's so gentlemanly, and old-fashioned.

Hey, you hungry? I could murder a bacon butty.

FRANKY

Franky vegetarian.

MARY

You're vegetarian? Wow! Me too. I mean, apart from the odd bacon butty. Let's go to the village, you can meet my dad.

GRAVEROBBERERS FOLLOW THEM TO THE VILLAGE.

GRAVEROBBERERS

It's not a nice job, but somebody's got to do it.

EXIT.

SCENE 3

THE VILLAGE. MARY'S DAD, ALPHONSE, IS THE LOCAL HANGMAN. HE IS TAKING DOWN DEAD BODIES FROM A SCAFFOLD AND LAYING THEM OUT IN THE STREET. VILLAGERS ARE DISPERSING AFTER THE EVENT. MARY AND FRANKY ARRIVE, FOLLOWED BY THE GRAVEROBBER CHORUS WHO ARE SNIFFING AROUND THE CORPSES.

MARY

Hi dad, there's someone I'd like you to meet.

ALPHONSE

Not now, Mary.

MARY

Bad timing, eh?

ALPHONSE

You could say that.

MARY

Why, what's happening?

ALPHONSE

We've been busy hanging people all morning.

MARY

(TO FRANKY)

Dad's the local hangman.

(TO ALPHONSE)

Poachers?

ALPHONSE

No.

MARY

Have people been stealing loaves of bread again?

ALPHONSE

No, they're wreckers.

MARY

What have they been wrecking?

ALPHONSE

Machines. At the mill. Brand new mechanical machines.

MARY

Bad news.

ALPHONSE

No respect for progress. What's a little unemployment and starvation in the wake of the industrial revolution? Some people have no sense of history.

THE GRAVEROBBERERS ARE TRYING TO SNATCH THE BODIES.

Oi! You Lot! Shoo! Shoo!

Honestly, they're not even cold yet. Vivisection, it's big business these days. The surgeons are crying out for fresh corpses.

Personally, I can't see why they'd want to look inside a body, it'll just be full of sin and wickedness and all manner of undigestible seeds.

MARY

Dad, this is Franky.

ALPHONSE LOOKS AT FRANKY FOR THE FIRST TIME.

ALPHONSE

He's a big lad for his mother.

Hello Franky.

FRANKY

Hello Mr Mary's daddy.

ALPHONSE

You can call me Alphonse.

FRANKY

Alphonse.

ALPHONSE

So, what do you do for a living, big fella?

FRANKY

Franky can do strongman act.

FRANKY LIFTS HEAVY SCAFFOLDING.

ALPHONSE

Not bad.

FRANKY

And Franky bring dead animals back to life.

ALPHONSE

Really?

FRANKY

With Dr Victor's journal.

ALPHONSE

Can you do it with people?

FRANKY

Franky not allowed to say.

ALPHONSE

Sure you can. If you can do it for animals, you can do it for people,
right?

ALPHONSE GOES TO ONE OF THE CORPSES, HORACE, AND HOLDS
HIS HEAD UP. HORACE STILL HAS A NOOSE AROUND HIS NECK.

What about this one?

MARY

Daddy, he's a criminal.

ALPHONSE

We thought he was a criminal. Apparently, with this one, we hung
the wrong person by mistake.

MARY

That's terrible.

ALPHONSE

I know. When his relatives find out, I'll be sued for every penny.

Can you do it for this one, big fella?

FRANKY LOOKS AT MARY

MARY

Please?

FRANKY

Franky need galvanic battery – big one.

ALPHONSE

Batteries I can do. We've got one at the mill, I'll be right back.

ALPHONSE INSTRUCTS THE VILLAGERS WHAT TO DO AND LEAVES.

SCENE 4

THE VILLAGERS TRANSFORM THE SCAFFOLD INTO A STAGE. HORACE IS BROUGHT TO THE STAGE AND PROPPED UPRIGHT. FRANKY IS STUDYING VICTOR'S JOURNAL. A CROWD GATHERS.

TOWN CRIER

Roll, roll up, come and see the show! The world-famous "Lazarus Show", the greatest show on earth, for one night only. Witness the miracle of electricity. See the hanged man brought back to life before your very eyes. Is it science or alchemy, who can tell? What we can tell you is that it is the very best in scientific entertainment, folks, right here in Matlock Bath.

(SIGNALING TO HIS SIDEKICK)

Pass the hat 'round, quick.

All donations gratefully received for charitable scientific research.

Roll up, roll up! Experimental theatre like you've never seen before.

ALPHONSE RETURNS WITH AN ENORMOUS BATTERY. HE SIGNALS FRANKY TO JOIN HIM ON STAGE.

ALPHONSE

It's the big man himself, let's hear it for Franky!

APPLAUSE.

ALPHONSE PASSES FRANKY TWO LARGE CROCODILE CLIPS FROM THE BATTERY.

FRANKY

(READING FROM VICTOR'S JOURNAL)

To jump start the corpse, first make sure the corpse is satisfactorily earthed.

FRANKY CHECKS HORACE'S BODY.

Next, connect the +ve cable to the +ve terminal and the -ve cable to the -ve terminal.

FRANKY SEARCHES HORACE'S NECK FOR THE TERMINALS. HE IS CONFUSED. THE CROWD GROWS RESTLESS. FRANKY ATTACHES THE CLIPS TO HORACE'S EARS. HE SIGNALS TO ALPHONSE TO CRANK A LARGE HANDLE ON THE BATTERY. THERE ARE SPARKS BUT NOTHING ELSE HAPPENS.

VILLAGERS

Boo! Sham! Shyster! Quack, quack! Conman! Faker! We want our money back!

MARY

Come on, Franky, you can do it.

HORACE'S MUM STEPS OUT OF THE CROWD.

HORACE'S MUM

Here, hang on a minute! That's our Horace! Horace! Wake up!

SHE HOLDS UP THE NOOSE AROUND HORACE'S NECK. ALPHONSE TRIES TO HIDE.

He only nipped out for a loaf of bread.

DR VICTOR RETURNS WITH ELIZABETH.

VICTOR

What the hell's going on? Franky?

FRANKY

Sorry, Dr Victor.

VICTOR

What have I always told you? Don't try this at home! Give me that journal.

HORACE'S MUM CLIPS HORACE AROUND THE EAR.

HORACE'S MUM

Where's my bread?

SUDDENLY HORACE COMES TO LIFE.

VILLAGERS

Look! Franky's done it! Horace has come back from the dead!

HORACE

Aargh, I've got a right pain in the neck.

HORACE'S MUM

I'll give you pain in the neck, my lad! Where's my loaf of bread?

SHE CLOUTS HIM 'ROUND THE HEAD WITH A ROLLING PIN AND

CHASES HIM OFF STAGE.

HORACE

Ouch! That hurts! Not the rolling pin! I'm sorry, I didn't mean to eat the bread! Mum!

VICTOR SNATCHES THE JOURNAL.

VICTOR

No more resurrections for you! And no zombie bride!

VICTOR LEAVES WITH ELIZABETH.

FRANKY

No! Dr Victor, please!

MARY COMFORTS FRANKY.

FRANKY

No zombie bride for Franky.

MARY

I'll be your zombie bride, Franky.

FRANKY

You will?

MARY

Sure. Well, more goth than zombie, if that's okay?

FRANKY

Franky and Mary have lots of little baby Frankies.

MARY

And Marys. First things first, we need a ring.

FRANKY UNDOES A BOLT FROM HIS NECK AND TAKES OFF A WASHER
AND PLACES IT ON MARY'S FINGER.

MARY

That is so romantic.

SHE JUMPS INTO HIS ARMS.

Let's get married! Dad? Can we? Please?

ALPHONSE

Well, he's a seriously ugly brute for a son-in-law, but if you love
him?

MARY

I do, I do.

THE CROWD PREPARE THE WEDDING, CHANTING “FRANKY, FRANKY”.

VICTOR RETURNS.

VICTOR

Stop this fiasco at once.

MARY

What is your problem?

VICTOR

This ceremony cannot possibly go ahead. A marriage has already been arranged for Franky. His bride is waiting for him in the Orkneys.

MARY

She can wait, he’s mine.

ELIZABETH

It is our custom to arrange a marriage.

ALPHONSE

Are you saying my daughter isn’t good enough for your ugly brute?

MARY

Dad!

VICTOR

You don’t understand, the future of science is at stake.

MARY

He’s my future now.

ELIZABETH

Think of the babies, you've no idea what progeny could issue from this union.

MARY

Hey, lady, you're the one who should be careful, married to your own cousin. That's right, Franky told me. So what abomination do you think you might be carrying?

ELIZABETH

Victor? Are you going to allow her to talk to me like that?

VICTOR

I am a member of The Illuminati: distinguished alchemists, scientists and magicians from the University of Ingoldstadt.

ALPHONSE

I don't care if you're a member of the sodding mafia. This is Matlock and in Matlock we marry for love.

APPLAUSE FROM VILLAGERS.

VICTOR

Franky, come with me!

FRANKY NODS 'NO'.

I'm very saddened and disappointed in you, Franky.

FRANKY

"He that increaseth knowledge, increaseth sorrow". You taught me that, Dr Victor.

VICTOR AND ELIZABETH LEAVE. THE VILLAGERS FOLLOW, CHANTING "FRANKY, FRANKY". EXIT ALL.

SCENE 5

MUSIC. THE YEAR IS 2018. DOCTOR WALDMAN'S SURGERY. PERCY AND HIS RECENTLY PREGNANT WIFE, DE LACEY, ARE WAITING FOR THE DOCTOR TO RETURN WITH THEIR TEST RESULTS. PERCY'S RIGHT HAND IS MISSING, COVERED BY A LONG SLEEVE. ON A LARGE PROJECTOR SCREEN ARE IMAGES OF A FOETUS SCANNED IN THE WOMB.

DE LACEY

It's the waiting I can't stand.

PERCY

And the not knowing.

DE LACEY

We'll know soon enough.

PERCY

Are you sure you want to go through with this?

DE LACEY

Why, don't you?

PERCY

I've said, I'll support you whatever your decision.

DE LACEY

I want this baby, Percy, no matter what. I'll love it however it turns out, you know that, don't you.

PERCY

'Course I do.

DE LACEY

But I need you to want it too.

PERCY

Let's see what Doctor Waldman says.

DOCTOR WALDMAN RETURNS.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Mr and Mrs Frankenstein?

PERCY

Please, call me Percy; this is De Lacey.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

I have your test results. Could I ask you a personal question?

DE LACEY

Yes.

PERCY

Fire away.

DOCTOR WALDMAN TAKES OUT MAPS OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL
GENOMES. THE IMAGES APPEAR ON THE SCREEN.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Before you got married, did you not check each other's genetic
blueprint?

DE LACEY

We were in love.

PERCY

It didn't matter.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Young people today, they never think of the future.

DE LACEY

What is it? What's the problem?

DOCTOR WALDMAN SHOWS THEM THEIR GENOME MAPS.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

While there appears to be nothing wrong with either of your individual genomes, when your DNA comes together to create an offspring, there's a good chance your child could be born with certain genetic defects.

DE LACEY

What defects?

DOCTOR WALDMAN RETURNS THEIR GENOME MAPS TO THEM.

SCREEN GOES BLANK.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

I'm afraid the child will be born left-handed.

DE LACEY

Is that it?

PERCY

Lacey, it's not normal.

DE LACEY

Percy? How can you, of all people say that?

PERCY

It's different for me, I lost my right hand in a motorcycle accident.

I've had to be left-handed.

DE LACEY

So? Where's the stigma in that? Look, 10 years ago none of this mattered.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

10 years ago none of this was possible; but this is 2018 and now it's all part of the service.

DE LACEY

Michaelangelo was left-handed, Leonardo da Vinci was left-handed, I could go on.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Yes, but now we've cured it, thanks to genetic engineering.

DE LACEY

Cured artistic genius?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

It was decided to phase out left-handedness, you know that.

DE LACEY

Well, this child will be left-handed and proud of it.

PERCY

Lacey, don't.

DOCTOR WALDMAN TAKES OUT A CHECKLIST AND STARTS TICKING BOXES.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

What colour eyes would you prefer?

DE LACEY

We don't mind.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Hair colour?

DE LACEY

We don't mind.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Boy or girl?

DE LACEY

We don't mind.

PERCY

Hang on, I might have something to say about that.

DE LACEY

Are you going to back me up or what?

PERCY

(RESIGNING HIMSELF)

We don't mind.

DOCTOR WALDMAN DOESN'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT UP IN A
DOMESTIC ARGUMENT SO HE HANDS THEM THE LIST.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Take this away with you, it's a list of all the options on offer. You
can let me know your preferences in your own good time.

PERCY

Thanks, doc.

DOCTOR WALDMAN TAKES HOLD OF PERCY'S RIGHT ARM.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

About that missing hand of yours, I've arranged for you to see a specialist, he can tell you what might be done.

PERCY

That's great, doc, thanks.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Well, you can't possibly go on like that.

DE LACEY

You mean left-handed?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

His name's Godwin. He's a bit of a character, but he's the best in the business.

THEY LEAVE.

SCENE 6

“PERCY’S PARTS”, A MOTORCYCLE BREAKERS, IN MATLOCK BATH.

ON THE SCREEN ARE IMAGES OF OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLING WITH ACCOMPANYING SOUND-EFFECTS.

BIKERS ARRIVE (INCLUDING MOZZY, WORM, SCORPION AND ROACH, BUT NOT CRAB). MUSIC (MICHAEL JACKSON’S “THRILLER”?). ALL THE BIKERS ARE DAMAGED IN SOME WAY THROUGH ACCIDENTS, GIVING THEM A ZOMBIE LOOK ABOUT THEM. THERE ARE CRUTCHES AND WALKING STICKS, BANDAGES, BROKEN AND MISSING LIMBS ETC.

BIKERS’ CHORUS

We’re moto-heads
On our supermotards,
Into risks and riding hard,
More intense than a teenage crush,
Re-inventing the adrenalin rush.
Fun and danger,
Like it or not,
Go together
Like teenagers and spots.
Moto racers
On the edge of our seats,
Take no prisoners,
A new breed of speed-freaks

MOZZY

Off the road and off our heads
On dirt and gravel
And showing tread.

WORM

Streetcred is dead,
Long live attitude.

ROACH

Revvng through forests,
Up and down hills,
Ripping through quarries,
Searching for the ultimate thrills.

MOZZY

Trailies and trialies,
Endurance enduros,
Motocross dirtbikes,
Back-road heroes,
Kicking ass with a hooligan tool,
Riding fast and breaking rules,
Bump and jump like an angry mule,
Up and away and burning fuel,
Perfect stoppies and pulling wheelies,
Gloves and gear all touchy-feely.

SCORPION

Taking off in an alien lid,
Crash landing in a sideways skid,
Twisting grips, cruel and mean,
Powerbands and leather dreams,
Caning bikes, making them scream,
Burning rubber in our stunt machines.

BIKERS

Supermotards,
Into risks and riding hard,
More intense than a teenage crush,
Re-inventing the adrenalin rush.
Fun and danger,
Like it or not,
Go together
Like teenagers and spots.
Moto racers
On the edge of our seats,
Take no prisoners,
A new breed of speed-freaks.

CRAB ENTERS ON AN ANCIENT, BATTERED AND ACTUAL MOPED.

MOZZY

What is that?

CRAB

It's a classic this, Mozzy, it's a C90.

MOZZY

You've been robbing the transport museum, haven't you?

CRAB

Honda C90: moped of the century –

WORM

Yeah, last century.

CRAB

(TRYING TO COPY THEIR BIKERS' CHORUS)

Twist and go,

Star of the show –

THEY LAUGH. CRAB GIVES UP TRYING TO COPY THEM.

CRAB

(CONTINUED)

Don't' laugh,

Your daughter could be riding pillion.

SCORPION

A bike with a sense of humour.

CRAB

Well, looks aren't everything, some things don't want to happen quick.

(TRYING AGAIN TO COPY THEIR CHORUS)

Thrill a minute this machine,

Best ride this side of the Derwent,

Have to book the brakes in advance,

Overheats, oil leaks,

Bit of a deathtrap really;

But it goes.

CRAB STARTS IT UP.

SCORPION

Has it got much petrol in?

CRAB

Grandad says it's full.

ROACH

Have you heard Crab? It's his grandad's.

CRAB

He's had it years.

MOZZY

I wouldn't be seen dead on one of them.

CRAB

It's got a motor, hasn't it?

MOZZY

It's a shed. Even Percy won't have that off you.

CRAB

Can't be that bad, they're still making them.

WORM

Yeah, for pizza deliveries.

CRAB

30 million of these, my grandad reckons, all over the world.

WORM

Can we thrash it?

CRAB

As long as we don't take it on the road, grandad says we can do what we like.

WORM

I bet we'd have to push it up some of these hills.

CRAB

It's got pedals, Worm.

MOZZY

Funky retro.

MOZZY SITS ON IT.

MOZZY

Twist and go.

CRAB

I thought you weren't interested, Mozzzy?

MOZZY

Just wanna see if I can pull a wheelie while we wait for Percy to come back.

PERCY RETURNS WITH DE LACEY.

MOZZY

Yo Percy, you coming for a ride?

PERCY

No can do, guys. Too much work to do.

WORM

Come on, it's not busy. De Lacey'll take care of the shop for an hour.

DE LACEY

She will not.

PERCY

Yeah, well, maybe if you guys actually bought something every now and then, I might be busy.

MOZZY

Woe, who had to kickstart his machine this morning?

DE LACEY

It's not a good time, guys.

PERCY

I'm not in a bad mood, we've got some serious worrying on the go.

MOZZY

We're out of here, man.

BIKERS CHORUS

We're moto-heads

On our supermotards,

Into risks and riding hard,

More intense than a teenage crush,

Re-inventing the adrenalin rush.

Fun and danger,

Like it or not,

Go together

Like teenagers and spots.

Moto racers

On the edge of our seats,

Take no prisoners,
A new breed of speed-freaks.

BIKERS LEAVE.

PERCY

You're going to have to give up work.

DE LACEY

Why?

PERCY

To look after the baby. To teach him, her, it, to use its right hand.

DE LACEY

That is not important.

PERCY

Easy for you to say, it won't be you they're taking the piss out of at school, will it?

DE LACEY

I don't trust that doctor.

PERCY

We've seen the results for ourselves.

DE LACEY

If I give up work, who'll run the shop?

PERCY

I'll have to.

DE LACEY

How can you? You're in the garage most of the time.

PERCY

Maybe I'll stop breaking bikes and concentrate on accessories.

DE LACEY

Face it, Perce, the business isn't working.

PERCY

It'll pick up again soon with the good weather.

DE LACEY

You know as well I do the day-trippers don't buy anything other than chips and ice-cream. Nobody wants parts any more: something goes wrong and they just buy a new bike.

PERCY

Not my mates, they don't.

DE LACEY

You said it yourself, you don't have enough mates to keep us afloat. Maybe we could sell bikes, new bikes?

PERCY

I am not being a dealer, you're never your own boss.

DE LACEY

Then maybe it's time to sell up and move.

PERCY

No. The Frankensteins have been a family business in Matlock Bath for 200 years. When Franky and Mary set up their battery business in 1818, they put down roots, our roots. I want our child to carry on the Frankenstein name.

DE LACEY

What if it's a girl?

PERCY

We only have boys in this family.

DE LACEY

I know it's a girl.

PERCY

How do you know?

DE LACEY

I just know.

PERCY

Yeah, right, did the spirits tell you?

DE LACEY

There's no talking to you when you're like this. Why do you feel so threatened by my spiritualism?

PERCY

All that mumbo-jumbo supernatural shit.

DE LACEY

I hear voices, Percy. I see dead people. I don't ask them to communicate with me, I never have; they just do. I wish they didn't pick on me, it's exhausting.

PERCY

Well it's time you made it pay. You shouldn't be delivering messages from beyond to complete strangers for free. It's a service, let the punters pay for it.

DE LACEY

You know what, you're damn right. If I set up properly as a medium, I could make us some money and work from home.

PERCY

Now you're making sense.

DE LACEY

Oh, and Perce, about our little girl: call it feminine intuition. Or don't you believe in that either?

EXIT.

SCENE 7

MUSIC. OUTSIDE "GODWIN'S LABS", THE DETECTIVE (IN A COLOURED MEDICAL COAT WITH THE COLLAR TURNED UP AND MATCHING TRILBY) IS PREPARING HIMSELF TO MEET GODWIN (ALSO IN A COLOURED MEDICAL COAT). ON THE SCREEN ARE CARTOON LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS.

DETECTIVE

It's a beautiful day, but don't let that fool you. Darkness is never far away, Inside this laboratory, crimes are being committed, evil deeds are going unpunished. It's down to me to catch the bad guys, serve justice, restore honour to a troubled profession. I have reason to suspect a genetic scientist, name of Godwin, is engaged in illegal practices within this very building. It is the belief of the Genetics Commission that Godwin is playing God, that he is growing all manner of human body parts for sale on the black market. He has no idea I've been staking the joint, it's only a matter of time before I catch him red-handed. It's a dirty business and it takes someone dirty to do it. That person is me.

INSIDE GODWIN'S LABS: THE LAB IS LITTERED WITH VARIOUS PROSTHETICS, ODD LIMBS LYING AROUND, PICKLED JARS WITH BITS OF ORGANS INSIDE, A WORK BENCH AND A VARIETY OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT.

GODWIN

I don't see the problem. Why does the Commission have such a
downer on me? If we can improve life, we should. How can
scientists be against experiments when life itself is an experiment?
The way I see it is like this: there's carbon and there are diamonds.
Now carbon's everywhere, right? In the earth, the trees and in us.
We are carbon-based life-forms. But diamonds are also carbon.
And diamonds are strong, very strong, and beautiful. So why don't
we turn carbon into diamonds. If we can make diamonds, we
should make them, that's the way I see it.

GODWIN'S AMBULANCE-CHASERS (IN WHITE MEDICAL COATS)
ARRIVE ON SKATEBOARDS TO AWAIT THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.

GODWIN

I have a vision of a Diamond Age,
Full of riches for the human race,
Where health will be all the rage
And illness a passing phase
As humans extend their days on earth.
The genetic engineers
Will put an end to all your fears.
Prosperity, posterity, longevity:
A Diamond Age with factories in space
Manufacturing perfect health,
Selling body parts of the shelf.
Gardens of flesh and blood at zero gravity,

You name it, we'll grow it:

4 weeks for an ear,

10 weeks for a heart,

Brains made to order,

British or foreign replacement parts.

The very best of the Frankenstein range

Keeping you fit 'til you die without pain.

An end to disability,

An end to insanity.

AMBULANCE CHASER 1

Here, I bought these hands and they're not a pair; I want a refund.

AMBULANCE CHASER 2

This leg's broken, I want a replacement.

AMBULANCE CHASER 3

This foot doesn't work properly.

AMBULANCE CHASER 4

These eyes, I want a different colour.

AMBULANCE CHASER 1

These arms you sold me, they're too long.

GODWIN

Posterity, longevity, prosperity,

A Diamond Age feeding the world

With the ripest tomatoes,

The biggest potatoes,

The longest-lasting rice

And all at cheaper prices,
An end to poverty.
Prosperity, longevity, posterity.
Nano spaceships, the coup de grace
Of diamond electronics built to last,
Mapping out those micro frontiers
With diamonds made by genetic engineers.
I have a vision of a Diamond Age.

GODWIN AND A-C CHORUS

The genetic engineers
Will put an end to all your fears.

GODWIN

Come to me, my little ambulance-chasers. I have a mission for you.
Go forth and bring me stem cells! Scour the maternity wards,
shadow the midwives, search every hospital and home where there
is a birth. Bring me umbilical cords! Bring me placentas! Bring me
all those unborn, unwanted fetuses! I must have stem cells!
Ah, the human parts I could grow if only the authorities would allow.
The diseases I could cure, the clones I could create. They call it a
crime to use stem cells for human production, to create human life
in the laboratory. The real crime is throwing them away, burying
them, cremating them, disposing of them as if they were of no
value. We're allowed to replace parts but we can't grow them,
where's the sense in that?

AMBULANCE-CHASERS CHORUS

I need a heart.

A liver.

A kidney.

A hip.

Can we have a brother for little Johnny's bone marrow?

Can we have a baby?

My nose is wonky, can you straighten it?

My ears are too pointy.

My breasts are too small.

My bottom's too big.

My stomach's too fat.

My neck has wrinkled like a turkey leg.

Look at these varicose veins.

I've got stretch marks on my belly.

Moles on my back.

Freckles on my face.

I'm going bald before my time.

I want a facelift.

Lyposuction.

Nip and tuck.

Big collagen lips.

New breasts for my birthday.

GODWIN

We've cloned sheep, cows, pigs, chickens, livestock of every description, why not clone humans?

GODWIN AND A-C CHORUS

The genetic engineers

Will put an end to all your fears.

GODWIN

Go! Go! Bring me stem cells!

THE AMBULANCE CHASERS LEAVE ON THEIR SKATEBOARDS. ONE OF THEM SPOTS THE DETECTIVE AND DOUBLES BACK TO WARN GODWIN.

AMBULANCE CHASER 1

Hey, boss, that detective is outside again. You want us to lead him on another wild goose chase?

GODWIN

No. I need you to find new premises, somewhere he'd never find us. We need to hide behind a legitimate business, where no one would ever suspect what we were up to. Go and see what you can come up with.

THE DETECTIVE APPROACHES.

AMBULANCE CHASER 1

Look out, boss, he's coming in.

AS AMBULANCE CHASER 1 SKATEBOARDS AWAY, THE DETECTIVE ENTERS. GODWIN ALLOWS HIM TO BROWSE FOR A WHILE.

GODWIN

What can I do you for? An arm, a leg, a hip, a nip and tuck?

DETECTIVE

That depends.

GODWIN

On what?

DETECTIVE

I don't want used goods.

GODWIN

We only do used, we're not allowed to do new.

DETECTIVE

I hear you can grow parts.

GODWIN

You heard wrong. For that we'd need stem cells and stem cells aren't allowed commercially. These are licensed premises. We'd lose our licence.

DETECTIVE

I have money.

GODWIN

Not at any price. I couldn't live with myself.

DETECTIVE

Well, if you hear of anyone growing parts, you be sure to let me know.

AS THE DETECTIVE LEAVES, PERCY ARRIVES. THE DETECTIVE LOOKS PERCY UP AND DOWN, SUSPICIOUSLY, THEN HANGS AROUND OUTSIDE.

PERCY

Dr Godwin?

GODWIN

Who wants to know?

PERCY

Percy, Percy Frankenstein, I've come about my hand.

GODWIN

Ah yes, let me see.

GODWIN EXAMINES PERCY'S STUMP.

Motorcycle accident, I believe?

PERCY

I know it sounds crazy but I get these terrible pains where my hand used to be.

GODWIN

Phantom limb syndrome. It's a common enough problem, but we don't fully understand why?

PERCY

The hand couldn't be saved.

GODWIN

It's as if the brain is grieving for its lost limb. Still sending messages via the nervous system but there's nowhere for them to go.

PERCY

So the nerves build up and cause me pain?

GODWIN TAKES OUT A FREEZER BOX FULL OF DIFFERENT HANDS

GODWIN

Could be. Now, pick a hand, any hand.

PERCY

Very funny.

GODWIN

What are you after? Artistic hand or lover's hand? Politician's hand or gangster's hand? Religious hand or banker's hand? Ever so slightly effeminate hand or big macho shovel hand? What do you do for a living?

PERCY

Motorcycles.

GODWIN

Of course.

PERCY

Though probably not for much longer.

GODWIN

Here we are: craftsman's hand with a finely ingrained layer of grease. Try it for size. Came off an engineer who went into the nightclub business.

GODWIN TAKES THE HAND AND SHAKES HANDS WITH PERCY'S LEFT HAND.

GODWIN

(CONTINUED)

How does it feel?

PERCY TAKES IT AND HOLDS IT AT THE END OF HIS RIGHT ARM TO
SEE HOW IT LOOKS.

GODWIN

(CONTINUED)

The motorcycle business is not so hot then at the moment?

PERCY

Bit of an understatement.

GODWIN

You work for yourself?

PERCY

“Percy’s Parts”, that’s me.

GODWIN

I’ve seen your premises. Big. Ever thought of going into
partnership?

PERCY

Who with? We’re the only breakers in town.

GODWIN

You could say what I do is a kind of breakers yard.

PERCY

What are you getting at?

GODWIN

Well, it so happens, that I am looking to move.

PERCY

I'm not sure, it's a family business, I don't really want to change the signs or anything.

GODWIN

Suits me, I like to keep a low profile. All my work comes through word of mouth, I never advertise. I could hide my business away at the back of your place, no one would ever know.

PERCY

You'd still have to pay half the rent and all your bills.

GODWIN

I'll do better than that, I'll pay all the rent for half the space.

PERCY

You've got yourself a deal.

GODWIN

Shake on it.

PERCY SHAKES GODWIN'S HAND WITH THE NEW HAND.

We'll get that grafted on in no time at all. This one's on me, free of charge.

GODWIN SEES DOCTOR WALDMAN ARRIVE AND USHERS PERCY INTO THE BACK ROOM SO THEY DON'T MEET.

You go through, I'll be along in a minute.

PERCY

You never told me what happened to the engineer?

GODWIN

Bit of a ladies man, by all accounts, was caught in bed with the nightclub owner's wife; don't ask what they did with the rest of him.

EXIT PERCY. DOCTOR WALDMAN APPROACHES.

I told you not to come here.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

How did it go with Percy?

GODWIN

I can handle Percy, you handle the girl. Did you do as I asked?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Of course. Are you sure you know what you're doing?

GODWIN

What's it to you? I'm paying you handsomely, aren't I?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

I returned their genomes like you said, they don't suspect a thing.

She thinks she's having a left-handed baby.

GODWIN

She is.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

And a bit more besides.

GODWIN

You let me take care of that. Make sure you look after that baby, it's my investment.

EXIT DOCTOR WALDMAN. GODWIN GOES TO FIND PERCY.

THE DETECTIVE RE-APPEARS.

DETECTIVE

Now what could the good Doctor Waldman and a dodgy one-handed motorcycle scrap-merchant have in common with Godwin? There are strange deals going on here. He's not one for wasting his time with little people.

I don't buy into this gene business as the future. Don't get me wrong, before I worked for the Commission, I was as evangelical as the rest of them. These guys are playing with fire. They genetically engineered a mouse that had become extinct 200 million years ago. Now that is evolution in reverse. That's where it's headed. This is dangerous stuff. D.N.A. doesn't give a damn about individual species. You can be a pig or an Olympic athlete, if D.N.A. wants you extinct, in order for it to survive, you'll be extinct. It doesn't matter to D.N.A. if you win the lottery or you're on a bus full of school-children crashing on the motorway, it's all the same. D.N.A. neither knows nor cares, it just survives. We'll never control it. There's a gene out there, which will herald the downfall of the entire species, the end of the human race; whenever the time is right for D.N.A. You mark my words.

EXIT.

SCENE 8

“PERCY’S PARTS”.

DE LACEY IS SETTING UP A WORKSPACE AS A MEDIUM. SHE ARRANGES HER EQUIPMENT (A LAPTOP COMPUTER) AND A CHAIR FOR HER CUSTOMERS. THE LARGE PROJECTOR SCREEN DISPLAYS FOR THE AUDIENCE WHAT APPEARS ON HER LAPTOP.

DE LACEY

(TO HER BELLY)

If you’re this much trouble before you’re born, what’s it going to be like when you finally surface? It’s going to be like getting a ship out of a bottle. Why can’t men have the babies? Like sea-horses.

Imagine that? All this for sex. Why bother? Greenflies don’t, so why do we? It’s not like we don’t have the technology to grow babies in a test-tube.

Ahh, my little miracle, I wouldn’t have it any other way. It’s a wonderous thing. From one single cell, you get this amazing little creature. A little planet Earth all of its own, rich with blood and skin and thoughts and feelings. Did you know, baby, your lungs will breath 25,000 times a day, your eyes will recognise 10 million different colours, your heart will pump 50,000 gallons of blood per day and you’ll be born with the capacity to speak any language on Earth. There are genes in your little body that are millions of years old. That’s a hell of a responsibility to pass on. I don’t know why we talk about “starting” a family? That’s ridiculous, I mean, individuals don’t “start” families, they’re born into them, aren’t they?

HER FIRST CUSTOMER, AN ELDERLY WOMAN, ARRIVES.

DE LACEY

Come in, sit down.

WOMAN

Do I have to do anything?

DE LACEY

Just try and relax. Is this your first time?

WOMAN

Only I suffer badly with my thrombosis, you see. And my hiatus hernia. And I'm troubled rotten with angina. I've tablets for my blood pressure. And nerves, don't ask about my nerves. I have regular supplements of iron, and Vitamin C, and B, and E, and Z –

DE LACEY

Z?

WOMAN

It's a new one they've discovered.

DE LACEY

This won't take long.

WOMAN

How exactly does this work?

DE LACEY

Spirits appear to me through cyberspace.

WOMAN

It all sounds very modern.

DE LACEY

It's very simple really. I switch on my computer and sit in front of the screen and concentrate.

DE LACEY SWITCHES ON HER LAPTOP. "WHITE NOISE" APPEARS ON THE LARGE SCREEN, WITH ACCOMPANYING SOUND-EFFECTS (PRE-RECORDED).

DE LACEY

(CONTINUED)

Is there someone in particular you are hoping to contact?

WOMAN

Bernard.

DE LACEY

A loved one?

WOMAN

Oh yes, very much so.

DE LACEY

Okay. Don't tell me any more unless I ask. Hold my hand. Now close your eyes and concentrate. I'd like you to think of Bernard. Imagine a happy time when you were together.

WOMAN

Okay.

DE LACEY

What are you doing together?

WOMAN

He used to like me tickling his belly.

DE LACEY

Really?

WOMAN

Yes. He'd roll over on his back.

DE LACEY

Was he disabled in some way?

WOMAN

No, he was a boxer.

DE LACEY

Your husband was a boxer?

WOMAN

Bernard's not my husband, he's my dog, a boxer dog.

DE LACEY

A dog? You want me to contact your dog?

WOMAN

Yes.

DE LACEY SWITCHES OFF HER LAPTOP. LARGE SCREEN GOES
BLANK.

DE LACEY

I'm sorry, I don't do dogs, on account of how they don't talk.

WOMAN

My Bernard used to chatter away to me all the time.

DE LACEY

Dogs don't have an after-life.

WOMAN

Oh no dear, you're wrong there, my Bernard's in doggy heaven.

DE LACEY

Great, fine, well, let him stay there. Goodbye.

DE LACEY USHERS HER OUT.

WOMAN

But I thought –

DE LACEY

Thank you, goodbye.

THE WOMAN GOES. DE LACEY SITS DOWN AGAIN, EXHAUSTED.

This is never going to work.

THIS TIME, SHE DOESN'T SWITCH ON HER LAPTOP BUT WHITE NOISE APPEARS AGAIN ON THE LARGE SCREEN (PRE-RECORDED).

DE LACEY

(CONTINUED)

What the - ? Who's there? How are you doing that without the laptop turned on?

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

(VOICE-OVER)

De Lacey.

DE LACEY

If that's you, Bernard, piss off!

A WOMAN'S FACE FLICKERS ON THE SCREEN (LIVE CCTV).

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

De Lacey, it's Mary.

DE LACEY

Mary who?

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

Beware the one who calls himself Godwin.

DE LACEY

That's who Percy's gone to see, how did you know?

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

Look to your unborn child.

DE LACEY

What about my child? What are you saying?

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

My own mother died in childbirth, I only ever knew her through her writings.

DE LACEY

Are you Franky's Mary?

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

Keep Godwin away from the unborn child.

DE LACEY

Mary?

SCREEN GOES BLANK.

Wait, don't go.

SCENE 9

“PERCY’S PARTS”. PERCY RETURNS HOME. DE LACEY IS WAITING.

PERCY

Hey, Lacey, I’ve got a surprise for you, close your eyes.

DE LACEY

Percy, we need to talk.

PERCY

Surprise first, come on.

DE LACEY

Okay.

SHE CLOSES HER EYES.

PERCY

Hold out your right hand.

HE SHAKES HER HAND WITH HIS NEW HAND. SHE OPENS HER EYES

AND QUICKLY WITHDRAWS HER HAND.

DE LACEY

Urgh!

PERCY

What?

DE LACEY

Your hand, it’s –

PERCY

Exactly.

DE LACEY

It feels weird.

HIS NEW HAND GRABS HER BACKSIDE AND SHE SQUEALS.

DE LACEY

(CONTINUED)

Ouch! That hurt.

PERCY

I'm sorry, I don't know what came over me.

DE LACEY

Well, don't do it again.

PERCY

I won't, I promise.

It's all down to Godwin, he's a life-saver.

DE LACEY

That's what I wanted to –

PERCY

Another surprise, guess what?

DE LACEY

I don't know.

PERCY

Guess?

DE LACEY

I can't.

PERCY

I've found us a business partner.

DE LACEY

Who?

PERCY

He'll pay all the rent for use of half the premises. Is that an amazing deal or what?

DE LACEY

Sounds too good to be true.

PERCY

Told you he's a lifesaver.

DE LACEY

You mean, we're in partnership with Godwin?

PERCY

We don't have to move.

DE LACEY

Listen –

PERCY

I can't believe our luck.

DE LACEY

Listen to me.

PERCY

What?

DE LACEY

I've had a message.

PERCY

So deliver it, what's new?

DE LACEY

It was for me.

PERCY

Oh?

DE LACEY

A voice. She warned me against Godwin.

PERCY

She? Whoever she is, you can tell her from me she's wrong.

DE LACEY

I think it was Mary, you know, Franky's Mary.

PERCY

Those are my ancestors, leave them alone.

DE LACEY

Hey, I didn't contact her.

PERCY

Godwin's our saviour, can't you see that?

DE LACEY

I have a bad feeling.

PERCY

You have no reason to mistrust him.

DE LACEY

I'm just saying, be careful.

PERCY

All right, I'll be careful.

DE LACEY

Why won't you listen?

PERCY

I don't want to hear another word, I've made a deal, that's it. I need you to support me on this.

BIKERS ARRIVE.

MOZZY

I'm glad you're back, man. We've been thinking, Perce, this town just wouldn't be the same without you. Imagine Matlock Bath with no bikers' haunt to hang out in; it's unthinkable, man.

PERCY

Guys, I'm touched, I really am; but –

MOZZY

Don't interrupt, man, I'm getting to the best bit. We've had a whip-round and collected enough spondoolies to hire Riber castle for a monster party. We're gonna sell hundreds of tickets at a big fat price and raise you some serious money to keep going.

PERCY

I don't know what to say, that is so generous, but -

MOZZY

You gotta swear you won't skip town and leave us all in some weird bikers' vacuum, man.

PERCY

I'm staying, I am definitely staying.

WORM

What you got there, man, at the end of your stump? Check this out, guys, Perce's got a new flipper.

CRAB

(TAKING PERCY BY HIS NEW HAND)

Wow, that is a beautiful job.

PERCY'S NEW HAND PUNCHES CRAB.

CRAB

(CONTINUED)

Hey! What's that for?

PERCY

It wasn't me, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to –

CRAB

Yeah right, that's the thanks you get for helping a mate.

SCORPION, A BIKER CHICK, TAKES PERCY'S NEW HAND.

SCORPION

Let me take a look.

PERCY'S HAND STROKES HER HAIR.

SCORPION

(CONTINUED)

Stop it, Perce.

PERCY'S HAND WON'T STOP WANDERING. SHE SLAPS PERCY'S FACE
AND WALKS AWAY.

DE LACEY

What do you think you're doing?

PERCY

I can't control it.

PERCY'S HAND MAKES VARIOUS "SWIVEL" AND "V SIGN" GESTURES.

PERCY

(CONTINUED)

It's got a mind of its own. You've gotta help me, Lacey, it's like it's not my hand.

DE LACEY GRABS THE HAND AND STRUGGLES TO COVER IT WITH HER MITTEN. THE HAND TRIES TO SHAKE OFF THE MITTEN, BUT CAN'T. PERCY AND DE LACEY COLLAPSE, EXHAUSTED.

GODWIN ARRIVES, FOLLOWED BY HIS AMBULANCE-CHASERS WITH HIS EQUIPMENT, WHICH THEY START TO UNPACK.

PERCY

Doc, you gotta help me, this hand –

DE LACEY HANDCUFFS PERCY'S ROGUE HAND BEFORE IT CAN WREAK HAVOC. THE HAND STRUGGLES TO BREAK FREE.

GODWIN

Hmm, a strange phenomenon. I've heard of this, but never actually witnessed it myself.

GODWIN INJECTS THE HAND WITH AN ANAESTHETIC.

PERCY

Ouch! What's wrong with it, doc?

GODWIN

I'm afraid, it defies science, but it would appear the hand is behaving as if it was receiving instructions from its previous owner. Perhaps it has stored up messages in the nervous system.

DE LACEY

That's gross.

GODWIN

Trouble with replacement parts, you see, such a primitive method in this day and age. I'll chop it off, shall I?

PERCY

What?

GODWIN

You won't feel a thing.

PERCY

But what about me? I want a new hand.

GODWIN

There is a solution, but it'll take a few days to, er –

PERCY

Anything.

GODWIN

This must be our little secret.

PERCY

No problem.

DE LACEY

I think you'd better tell us what's going on?

GODWIN PATS HER PREGNANT BELLY.

GODWIN

Take my advice and freeze the umbilical cord and placenta and place them in storage. Believe me, baby will thank you for it in later life.

BIKERS APPROACH GODWIN.

MOZZY

Hey, doc, if you can fix up Perce, maybe you could do something for us guys, what do you think?

ONE OF THE BIKERS, ROACH, HAS HIS ARMS SET PERMANENTLY IN A RIDING POSITION.

GODWIN

What's the matter with him?

ROACH

Broke both my arms, they couldn't fix them; said they could set my arms in one position, which way did I want it? So I had them set in the riding position.

WORM

Yeah, Roach can still ride, but he has trouble wiping his arse.

GODWIN

I can fix you all, no problem.

BIG CHEER.

My pleasure. You can pay off the costs by doing a little work for me.

MUSIC. EXIT.

INTERVAL.

SCENE 10

“GODWIN’S LABS”.

MUSIC. PRE-SET DOWNSTAGE ARE DE LACEY (WHO IS NOW HEAVILY PREGNANT) AND DOCTOR WALDMAN IN HIS SURGERY.

ON SCREEN ARE “LIFE ON EARTH” IMAGES ILLUSTRATING THE WONDER OF NATURE.

THE BIKERS RE-APPEAR. THEY ARE ALL FIXED UP AND REPAIRED WITH NEW BODY PARTS. THEY SWOP THEIR TATTY LEATHERS FOR WHITE MEDICAL COATS AND START WORK FOR GODWIN AS AMBULANCE-CHASERS.

GODWIN

All living things, old or new,
Share the same genetic blueprint.
These arms could be petals or wings,
These legs could be fins,
This mouth and nose could be gills,
These lips a beak,
These hands could be leaves,
These fingers feathers,
These nails claws.
I could have evolved with a tail,
My back could be covered in scales,
I could have bumps like a camel or a llama,
My tongue could be as long as an iguana,
My neck like a giraffe,

I might laugh like a hyena,
My teeth could be as sharp as a shark's,
I might have been able to see in the dark,
I could have had a thousand eyes
Like a domestic fly,
A hundred legs like a centipede
Or a million spores like a dandelion seed.
Instead of growing into a human,
I could easily have become a puma,
Or a juicy Satsuma tree,
A frog or a dog,
A gorilla or a cincilla,
Rhinoceros or hippopotamus,
Mandrill, krill, duck-billed platypus,

MOZZY

Pink flamingo or tropical mango,
Elephant or cormorant,
Black widow or armadillo,
Rotweiller or crocodile,
Arctic tern or tree fern,
Cheetah, ant-eater, hyena,

CRAB

Yucca or zebra,
Lark or shark,
Fire-bellied toad or giant redwood,
Moth or sloth,
Flea or honeybee,
Koala, cicada, boa constrictor,

WORM

Albatross or common moss,
Turtle or myrtle,
Electric eel or chameleon,
Scorpion or lion,
Locust or crocus,
Dolphin, penguin, lupin,

SCORPION

Manta ray or prey mantis,
Salmon or python,
Sidewinder or porcupine,
Chimpanzee, Japanese macaque,
Humpback whale, swallow-tail,
Kangaroo, shrew, cuckoo...

GODWIN

When you next squash an ant
Or pull the head off a flower,
Remember,
They are your mother and father,
Sister and brother,
Your children,
Descendants of tomorrow,
Ancestors from yesterday
And all distant cousins of D.N.A.
So hug a tree,
Stroke a cat,
Let a spider run free,
All creatures have as much right
To life as you or me.

SCENE 11

DOCTOR WALDMAN'S SURGERY. THE DOCTOR FINISHES HIS
EXAMINATION OF DE LACEY.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Baby seems perfectly fine.

DE LACEY

It's about the only thing that is.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

All alone this morning? Percy busy?

DE LACEY

Percy's always busy since he met Godwin – no thanks to you.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Yes, well, at least Godwin's given him a new hand, I believe?

DE LACEY

That's not all he's given him.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

I'm sorry, I don't quite follow.

DE LACEY

You recommended him, you must know something about his
background?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

He's an eminent surgeon and genetic scientist.

DE LACEY

Then why is he working out of our garage?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

I believe his work is of a delicate nature.

DE LACEY

So he's been to prison for it, has he?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Oh no, nothing like that, I'm sure.

DE LACEY

Did you know he's set Percy up selling people fake genomes?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

I don't know anything about that.

DE LACEY

That's illegal, isn't it? I mean, that's like false passports.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

You really should concentrate on the health of your baby.

DE LACEY

Don't patronise me, doc.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

You musn't allow yourself to get too stressed.

DE LACEY

Then tell me about Godwin?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

You should ask your husband.

DE LACEY

No fear, I will.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

You need plenty of rest.

DE LACEY

I'll rest when I'm rid of Godwin.

EXIT DE LACEY AND DOCTOR WALDMAN.

SCENE 12

MEANWHILE, BACK AT GODWIN'S LABS.

PERCY APPEARS IN SHADES AND TRENDY VERSION OF THE MEDICAL COAT. HE HAS BECOME A "DEALER" ON THE GENETICS BLACK MARKET. THE DETECTIVE IS WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE.

PERCY

All I'm doing is providing a service for people, man; where's the harm in that? I mean everybody has to have a map of their genome, it's the law, right? Your genome is your i.d., your passport to being accepted into society, it's what identifies you as a responsible citizen. But what if you have a dodgy genome? You're out of the game, that's what. You can't get work if your genes aren't up to scratch, you can't get insurance, you can't have wheels, you can't even get yourself a woman if your genome isn't compatible. I'm asking you, man, what would you do? If you've got any sense, you're gonna buy yourself another genome, right? That's where I come in. Okay, so it's cheating a little; but some people don't have no choice. They need dealers like me. Forging a genome is not a simple task. It takes great skill, so it's worth a good few diamonds, innit?

Truth is, society would be down the toilet without the black market. Take marriage, for example. Half of them could never happen if there weren't a few white lies about their genes uttered under oath. I get all sorts come to me, man, from single mothers to politicians. I could tell you a few stories about people in high places. So why are

the gene police treating us like common criminals? It's not us they should be hounding, there's a lot worse than us.

I mean, when are they going to do something about the ugly people? They're spoiling it for the rest of us. You can wear all the protective gear you want, there's no protection against ugliness. I'm in a beautiful restaurant, right, with my girl by my side and beautiful food and some ugly guy comes in, with a face like a deflated meringue, and sits right opposite, troughing away at his tagliatelli, man. I say terminate these mothers before they're even allowed on stream.

HE APPROACHES GODWIN.

PERCY

(CONTINUED)

Yo, doc, how's it going?

GODWIN

Business is booming, Percy, thanks to you.

PERCY

I'm making a killing, man, flogging these genomes. Thanks for setting me up, man.

GODWIN

Teamwork, Percy. Your motorcycle shop is the perfect front for our business; no one suspects a thing.

DE LACEY ARRIVES.

DE LACEY

But I know what's going on and I'm not happy about it.

PERCY

Chill, woman, you're embarrassing me.

GODWIN LEAVES THEM TO ARGUE.

DE LACEY

Oh, spare me your blushes, please. Where were you?

PERCY

Business.

DE LACEY

The big man, too busy for babies.

PERCY

That's your department, bitch.

PERCY LOOKS OVER TO HIS MATES.

DE LACEY

Why are you talking like that?

PERCY

This is how I talk.

DE LACEY

Our child is not going to grow up in this den of thieves.

PERCY

And what do you think will feed it and cloth it and buy it the finer things in life? Deal with it, De Lacey.

DE LACEY

Listen to yourself, Percy. You're not the same person I married. You've become some kind of a monster.

DE LACEY LEAVES. DETECTIVE FOLLOWS HER. PERCY'S WONDERING WHETHER TO GO AFTER HER.

GODWIN

Let her have a little cry, Percy. Eventually, she'll see we're all on the same side.

BIKERS JOIN PERCY.

L F/X FLASHING BLUE LIGHTS. S F/X MOTORCYCLES.

GODWIN

Come to me, my little ambulance-chasers; I have a mission for you.

BIKERS

What do you want us to do, doc?

GODWIN

Take to the streets on your two-wheel getaway machines, my lovelies, and search for accidents. When you see an ambulance, chase it. Introduce yourself to the victims. Give them my card. Tell them help is at hand. For a small fee, we can repair their twisted bodies. Spread the word. Whatever they need, from a lung to a spleen, Godwin will grow it. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back; cash only sales, in advance, read the small-print for details.

BIKERS SCREECH AWAY.

GODWIN GOES TO SEE DOCTOR WALDMAN.

SCENE 13

IN THE STREET. DE LACEY IS CRYING. DETECTIVE APPROACHES HER.

DETECTIVE

Excuse me, I don't mean to intrude, but are you all right?

DE LACEY

Do I look all right?

DETECTIVE

I'm sorry, I'll leave you alone.

DE LACEY

I didn't mean to be rude.

DETECTIVE

I'm a good listener.

DE LACEY

You don't want to hear my problems.

DETECTIVE

Sometimes telling a complete stranger can be the best thing. It's okay, sweetheart, I'm not a stalker or anything.

DE LACEY

I didn't think you were.

DETECTIVE

You know, people were kind to me once, when I was very down; perhaps you'd allow me to show you a little kindness in return?

DE LACEY

What goes around, comes around.

DETECTIVE

Exactly.

DE LACEY

I believe in that.

DETECTIVE

Me too. Why don't you let me take you to lunch?

DE LACEY

I can't.

DETECTIVE

It's only lunch. Don't worry, I can see from your ring that you're married.

DE LACEY

Maybe not for much longer.

DETECTIVE

That bad? It must be very difficult with a little one on the way?

DE LACEY

Yes. It is. Look, there's something I have to do first.

DETECTIVE

Then let me buy you dinner later? I'm in town for a while and I don't know anyone, you'd be doing me a favour.

DE LACEY

Okay. Why not?

DETECTIVE

Great. There's a little restaurant across the way, will that do?

DE LACEY

Fine.

DETECTIVE

I'll meet you there about 8 o'clock.

DE LACEY

That would be lovely.

EXIT DE LACEY AND DETECTIVE.

SCENE 14

DOCTOR WALDMAN'S SURGERY. GODWIN ARRIVES.

GODWIN

What have you told her?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Nothing, I swear.

GODWIN

She suspects something.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

She's a good kid, it seems such a shame.

GODWIN

A shame? It's a privilege, an honour. She'll be proud one day that I selected her.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

What if she rejects the baby?

GODWIN

She won't, she's a good mother.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

How can you be so sure? Your messing with someone's D.N.A.

GODWIN

There's no evolution without change. Once upon a 100,000 years ago, when "modern man" crawled out of Africa with a so-called "change" in his front brain, otherwise known as "the imagination", he was bursting with cave paintings, music, language, technology, philosophy and science. Neanderthal Man couldn't possibly

compete.

Now is the time for mankind to “change” again.

EXIT GODWIN AND DOCTOR WALDMAN.

SCENE 15

“PERCY’S PARTS”.

DE LACEY IS AT HER LAPTOP TRYING TO CONTACT HER SPIRIT GUIDE. WHITE NOISE APPEARS ON THE LARGE SCREEN WITH S F/X (PRE-RECORDED).

DE LACEY

Mary? Are you there? Please answer.

(PAUSE) Where are you when I need you?

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

(VOICE-OVER)

I’m here.

DE LACEY

Mary, is that you?

MARY’S FACE FLICKERS ON THE SCREEN (LIVE CCTV).

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

Yes.

DE LACEY

Oh Mary, you have to help me. You were right about Godwin, he’s turned Percy into a criminal.

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

What about the baby? Has he been anywhere near the baby?

DE LACEY

No, the baby’s doing fine. Please, can you tell Franky he needs to contact Percy and knock some sense into him. He’s trashing the good Frankenstein name.

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

De Lacey, I'm not a Frankenstein.

DE LACEY

But I thought... you and Franky?

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

What you've been told about Franky and Mary, it's just a story.

DE LACEY

You're wrong, they're Percy's ancestors.

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

Percy's family made the whole thing up, it's not true.

DE LACEY

How do you know?

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

Because Frankenstein is a character in a book. I should know, I wrote it.

DE LACEY

No. Percy's family have lived in Matlock for 200 years.

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

I don't doubt it.

DE LACEY

You're not Mary, you're an imposter.

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

I'm Mary Shelley.

DE LACEY

I've never heard of you.

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

I was pregnant, like you were, when I wrote Frankenstein. It came to me in a nightmare.

DE LACEY

You're making this up. Why have you contacted me?

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

I lost 3 of my 4 children, that's the way things were in my day.

DE LACEY

I'm sorry for you, but -

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

My husband was the poet, Shelley.

DE LACEY

I've never heard of Shelley.

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

I'm from another dimension. A parallel universe, we call "reality".

DE LACEY

You must be mistaken. Don't you see, your personal tragedies have made you delusional.

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

I know better than most that suffering is a fact of life, even though Godwin and his like would have us believe otherwise.

DE LACEY

I don't care about Godwin, I want my husband back.

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

I wanted mine back too. He sailed away one night, with his friend, and was never seen again. I was 25 years of age.

DE LACEY

How do you know you're not a fictional character in my story?

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

All life is a story.

DE LACEY

Well, if life is a story, I can change it.

GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY

Yes.

SCREEN GOES BLANK.

Wait! Don't go! Please!

EXIT.

SCENE 16

IN THE RESTAURANT. DE LACEY AND THE DETECTIVE ARE ENJOYING
A MEAL.

DE LACEY

It's a bit posh here, isn't it?

DETECTIVE

Do you like the food?

DE LACEY

I'm not sure what it is; but yeah, thanks.

DETECTIVE

The tomatoes are imported from the States.

DE LACEY

Gee, you really know how to impress a girl.

DETECTIVE

They're genetically engineered.

DE LACEY

You mean they're not real?

DETECTIVE

Of course they're real, taste them. They're a new, improved real.

DE LACEY

Are they safe?

DETECTIVE

They were first released into the environment in California. There
doesn't seem to have been any side-effects.

DE LACEY

“Released into the environment” - sounds ominous. Should we be messing with nature like this?

DETECTIVE

Why not? We've been spraying crops with chemicals for decades, it's not so different.

DE LACEY

How do you know?

DETECTIVE

We granted the tomatoes a licence.

DE LACEY

We? Who's we?

DETECTIVE

The Genetics Advisory Commission, it's a government body.

DE LACEY

You work for the government?

DETECTIVE

I'm one of their advisers.

DE LACEY

(SUSPICIOUS)

You're a scientist?

DETECTIVE

More of a detective these days. A sort of gene detective.

DE LACEY

Lose a lot of genes, do you?

DETECTIVE

Tricky business, keeping tabs on genes.

DE LACEY

I thought you said genes were safe?

DETECTIVE

Their effects are ambivalent. Genes are like food: the same foods that provide energy for our bodies might, in time, cause heart failure. Genes are programmed to give us life but they're also programmed to take it away.

DE LACEY PLAYS WITH HER FOOD.

DETECTIVE

I'm putting you off your meal, I'm sorry; it's very rude of me.

Tell me about you, where you live, your friends?

DE LACEY

What's to tell?

DETECTIVE

Tell me about the father of your baby?

DE LACEY

Why have you asked me to dinner?

DETECTIVE

I told you, I'm in the area, I don't know anyone –

DE LACEY

I think I'd better leave.

DETECTIVE

Please, listen to me, you're in grave danger.

DE LACEY

What do you mean, danger? Are you trying to frighten me?

DETECTIVE

I'm trying to save you. Your baby –

DE LACEY

What about my baby? Are you and Godwin - ?

DETECTIVE

No. I'm the good guy. I've been tracking Godwin for years. If I could only get enough evidence –

DE LACEY

What has this got to do with my baby?

DETECTIVE

Doctor Waldman is in league with Godwin. I know they've been searching for a baby, or rather a foetus, for some time.

DE LACEY

What are you saying? What have they done to my baby?

DETECTIVE

I don't know for sure.

DE LACEY

Tell me.

DETECTIVE

I have good reason to believe they've tampered with the D.N.A. of your unborn child.

DE LACEY

What!

DETECTIVE

Godwin thinks he can kick start evolution by engineering a sort of advanced human being.

DE LACEY

My precious baby? Like your rotten tomatoes.

SHE GETS UP.

DETECTIVE

Please? I need your help.

HE REACHES OUT TO HER. SHE SHRUGS HIM OFF.

DE LACEY

You're lying. Get away. Get off me. You're all in this together. Don't you dare come near me ever again.

EXIT DE LACEY AND DETECTIVE.

SCENE 17

LF/X FLASHING BLUE LIGHTS. SF/X MOTORBIKE REVVING. IN SLOW-MOTION, CRAB IS PULLING A WHEELIE ON HIS HONDA C90 MOPED, WHICH ENDS WITH SF/X OF A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT AND CRAB LYING HURT ON THE GROUND AND HIS MOPED ON ITS SIDE.

SF/X MOTORCYCLES. ELSEWHERE, THE BIKERS SCREECH TO A HALT.

MOZZY

I'm not sure about this, dudes.

WORM

It's great fun, man.

ROACH

Yeah, I'm all fixed up and feeling brand new, man.

MOZZY

I hate roads. We're off-roaders, it doesn't feel right to me, man.

LF/X FLASHING BLUE LIGHTS. SF/X AMBULANCE SIREN.

SCORPION RECEIVES A MESSAGE ON HER RADIO.

SCORPION

News coming in of another smash, guys, on the A6 Buxton Road.

Let's go.

SF/X MOTORCYCLES SCREECH AWAY AND ARRIVE AT THE SCENE OF CRAB'S ACCIDENT, WHERE TWO AMBULANCE CREW WITH A STRETCHER ARE ATTENDING TO CRAB.

MOZZY IS FIRST TO ARRIVE AND IS SHOCKED TO SEE CRAB.

MOZZY

Crab!

AMBULANCE CREW 1

Stay back, he's in a bad way.

CRAB

I did it, Moz. They said it couldn't be done, but I did it. I pulled a wheelie on a C90, Moz.

MOZZY

But did you have to do it on the busiest road out of town, you big hero?

THE OTHER BIKERS ARRIVE. WORM GOES STRAIGHT INTO HIS AMBULANCE-CHASER ROUTINE.

WORM

Don't worry, help is at hand, for a small fee, we can re-build you, satisfaction guaranteed or your money back, cash only sales in advance, read the small-print for details, here's my card.

SCORPION

Worm! What you doing? That's Crab.

WORM

I know.

CRAB

I really did it, Moz.

CRAB DIES. MOZZY PULLS AWAY AND CRIES INTO SCORPION'S ARMS. WORM APPROACHES CRAB.

WORM

Where does it hurt, man?

AMBULANCE CREW LIFT CRAB ON TO THE STRETCHER.

AMBULANCE CREW 2

It doesn't hurt any more - he's dead.

S F/X AMBULANCE SIREN.

EXIT.

SCENE 18

DOCTOR WALDMAN'S SURGERY. DE LACEY ARRIVES.

DE LACEY

What have you done to my baby?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Nothing.

DE LACEY

Don't lie to me.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Who have you been talking to?

DE LACEY

Did you know that Godwin is being investigated by the Genetics
Commission?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

They have no proof.

DE LACEY

Are you wanted, as well, by the gene police?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

No, I certainly am not.

DE LACEY

I'll ask you one more time: what have you done to my baby?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Nothing, I swear. Look, calm down.

DE LACEY

Liar!

SHE PULLS OUT A GUN AND POINTS IT AT HIM.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

De Lacey, no, don't.

DE LACEY

Tell me.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

I can't.

SHE DRAWS BACK THE HAMMER ON THE GUN.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

(CONTINUED)

It's Godwin, he made me do it.

DE LACEY

Do what?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Your foetus, he's engineered a small change.

DE LACEY

Tell me.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

He's altered a single gene, that's all.

DE LACEY

Why?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

He thinks he can fast-track a small evolutionary change.

DE LACEY

What kind of change?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

It's still your baby.

DE LACEY

Why me?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

You might not even notice.

DE LACEY

What am I? The Virgin Mary?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

You're in good health, you have the right genetic make-up, your husband is –

DE LACEY

Does Percy know about this?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

No, he has no idea.

DE LACEY

Let's go and ask him, shall we?

SHE LEADS HIM AWAY AT GUN-POINT.

EXIT.

SCENE 19

GODWIN'S LABS. BIKERS RETURN AND THROW DOWN THEIR WHITE COATS AND PUT ON THEIR TATTY LEATHERS AGAIN.

GODWIN

What do you think you're doing? Why are you back so early? Put those back on, you've work to do.

MOZZY

Not any more, we haven't.

GODWIN

But you owe me. Tell them, Percy.

PERCY

What's happened, Moz?

MOZZY TURNS AWAY.

SCORPION

Crab is dead.

PERCY

What? How?

ROACH

We've just come from the accident.

PERCY

You were ambulance-chasing Crab?

MOZZY

Just beautiful, innit?

PERCY

Listen, we'll do right by crab and his family.

MOZZY

We're finished.

GODWIN

Look, I'm sorry about your friend, but a deal's a deal; you can't just pull out.

MOZZY

Watch me.

GODWIN

I fixed you, all of you, you owe me.

MOZZY

Sue us.

It's over, Perce. If you have any sense you'll get out now too.

PERCY

I can't.

MOZZY

Won't. You've lost Crab, you've lost us as mates and, if you're not careful, you'll lose De Lacey and the babe.

PERCY

What do you mean?

MOZZY

If you can't see it, man, it's probably too late.

EXIT BIKERS.

GODWIN

Don't let them go. Order them to stay. I thought you were their leader?

PERCY

I need to see my wife.

DE LACEY ARRIVES WITH DOCTOR WALDMAN.

DE LACEY

Good, 'cause I need to see you.

GODWIN

(TO DOCTOR WALDMAN)

What the hell have you been saying?

DOCTOR WALDMAN

She gave me no choice.

DE LACEY PUSHES DOCTOR WALDMAN TO ONE SIDE AND WAVES
HER GUN AT GODWIN TO JOIN HIM.

DE LACEY

You! Over there – now!

PERCY

Are you crazy?

DE LACEY TURNS HER GUN ON PERCY.

DE LACEY

Are you in it with these two?

PERCY

In what?

DE LACEY

You know what they've done to our baby, don't you?

PERCY

What are you talking about?

GODWIN

She's delusional.

DE LACEY TURNS THE GUN BACK ON GODWIN

DE LACEY

Yeah? Maybe this gun is a figment of my imagination, as well?

Shall I pull the trigger and see?

GODWIN

No. No, look, I didn't mean to offend you.

DE LACEY

Ha! That's rich. You don't want to offend me, but you'll abuse my unborn child?

PERCY

What have you done to her, Godwin? If you've hurt her, I'll kill you myself.

DE LACEY

People are just a commodity to you, aren't they? Like diamonds.

GODWIN

I'm a scientist.

DE LACEY

Tell that to the Genetics Commission when I testify against you.

GODWIN

You don't believe that detective, do you? He's filling your head full of science fiction.

DE LACEY POINTS THE GUN AT HER OWN BELLY.

DE LACEY

What if I was to take this gun and put an end to your little experiment?

GODWIN

No! Please. All right, it's true, but you don't understand –

DE LACEY

No, I don't. Would you like to tell me how privileged I am?

GODWIN

5 million years ago, we began to evolve as human beings. For what? For you, in 2018AD, to throw it all away?

DETECTIVE ARRIVES.

DETECTIVE

Well done, De Lacey, I'll take over from here.

SHE TURNS THE GUN ON HIM.

DE LACEY

Get over there with the rest of them!

DETECTIVE

De Lacey, I'm on your side, remember?

DE LACEY

Yeah? You knew what they were up to before they did this to my baby and you did nothing. As far as I'm concerned, you're as bad as the rest of them.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

De Lacey, you can't hold us all at gunpoint forever.

DE LACEY

Percy, fetch a pen and paper.

PERCY

What?

DE LACEY

Just do it.

HE FINDS PEN AND PAPER.

DE LACEY

(CONTINUED)

Write this down: "Godwin's Labs hereby hands over all its assets and research to De Lacey Frankenstein that she might establish a new charitable foundation for the sole benefit of her firstborn child."

DE LACEY

(CONTINUED)

(TO GODWIN)

Now, sign it and date it.

GODWIN

But that's my entire life's work.

DE LACEY

Sign.

GODWIN SIGNS.

DE LACEY

(CONTINUED)

(TO DOCTOR WALDMAN)

You – witness it.

DE LACEY

(CONTINUED)

(TO DETECTIVE)

And you.

DETECTIVE AND DOCTOR WALDMAN SIGN.

DE LACEY IS SUDDENLY TAKEN ILL WITH BIRTH CRAMPS.

DE LACEY

(CONTINUED)

Aaargh!

SHE DROPS THE GUN. THE DETECTIVE BEATS GODWIN TO THE GUN
AND HOLDS HIM AT BAY. PERCY HELPS HIS WIFE.

PERCY

Lace, what's happening?

DE LACEY

My waters are breaking.

PERCY

Let's get you to hospital.

DE LACEY

It's too late, Perce, the baby's coming.

PERCY

(TO DOCTOR WALDMAN)

Doc, do something.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Godwin?

GODWIN

There's sterile equipment in the lab and an operating table. You'll find gas and everything you'll need.

THEY FETCH THE TABLE AND LIFT DE LACEY ONTO IT. THEY GIVE HER GAS AND PREPARE HER FOR CHILDBIRTH. THEY FACE HER LOWER HALF UPSTAGE AND ERECT A SCREEN ACROSS HER TORSO FOR HER MODESTY. DOCTOR WALDMAN STAYS UPSTAGE, BABY SIDE, OF THE SCREEN. THE OTHERS STAY DOWNSTAGE, AUDIENCE SIDE.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

(TO PERCY)

She'll be fine, I promise. Hold her hand while the painkillers take effect.

PERCY HOLDS HER HAND AND HELPS WITH THE GAS.
WHITE NOISE APPEARS ON THE LARGE SCREEN WITH
ACCOMPANYING S F/X.

DE LACEY

Percy?

PERCY

I'm here for you, sweetheart.

DE LACEY

Can you see them?

PERCY

See who, Lace?

DE LACEY

Franky. And Mary.

PERCY

You'd better give me some of that.

HE TAKES A FEW DRAGS ON THE GAS.

DE LACEY

Look. They've had a little baby.

MUSIC. THE GHOST OF MARY SHELLEY'S FACE FLICKERS ON THE SCREEN. SHE IS SMILING. FRANKY AND MARY APPEAR ON STAGE, PUSHING AN OLD-FASHIONED PRAM. THEY ARE FOLLOWED BY ALPHONSE, VICTOR AND ELIZABETH AND THE VILLAGERS. THEY ARE ONLY SEEN BY DE LACEY AND PERCY.

VILLAGERS CHORUS

It's a girl,

It's a girl,

The most beautiful creature

In the whole wide world

And she's yours, Mary,

And she's yours, Franky.

DE LACEY GETS UP FROM HER BED AND SHE AND PERCY JOIN FRANKY AND MARY TO LOOK AT THEIR BABY.

VILLAGERS CHORUS

(CONTINUED)

When she sailed in on the evening tide

This girl brought with her a source of pride,

And she's yours, Mary and Franky.

She's all brand new and squeaky clean,

Look, she's got your eyes and your curly hair,
Perfect little hands – have you seen?
She's a love,
She's a looker, all right,
She'll break a few hearts when she turns sixteen
And she's yours, Mary and Franky.
It's a girl,
It's a girl,
The most beautiful creature
In the whole wide world.

ALPHONSE STANDS WITH VICTOR AND ELIZABETH AS PROUD GRAND-
PARENTS.

ALPHONSE

What are you going to call our granddaughter, Franky?

FRANKY

Pandora.

MARY

Pandora Frankenstein of Matlock Bath.

A BIG CHEER FROM THE VILLAGERS. DE LACEY AND PERCY RETURN
TO THEIR OWN CHILDBIRTH SCENE. ALL THE VILLAGERS EXIT. LARGE
SCREEN GOES BLANK.

MUSIC. DE LACEY CRIES OUT AS HER BABY IS DELIVERED.

SF/X A STRANGE BABY'S CRY IS HEARD, WHICH IS NOT QUITE
HUMAN. THE OTHERS PEER OVER THE SCREEN ACROSS DE LACEY

TO LOOK AT THE BABY. DE LACEY LOOKS AROUND THE SCREEN.

THEY ARE ALL AMAZED BY WHAT THEY SEE.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Her nails are feathers.

DETECTIVE

Her arms are wings.

GODWIN

Her lungs are gills.

PERCY

Her legs are fins.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Her skin is black and white.

DETECTIVE

A nose like a trunk.

GODWIN

A spine with a tail.

PERCY

A mouth like a beak.

DE LACEY

She is the same as everything and yet she's unique.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Not an eagle nor a penguin.

DETECTIVE

Not a lizard nor a whale.

GODWIN

Not an elephant nor a frog.

DOCTOR WALDMAN

Not a squirrel nor a shrew.

DETECTIVE

Not a monkey nor a pig.

GODWIN

She's not me, not you.

DE LACEY & PERCY

She's a baby, she's human.

ALL

She is evolution.

It's a girl,

It's a girl,

The most beautiful creature

In the whole wide world.

PERCY

And she's ours, Lacey.

DE LACEY

And she's ours, Percy.

MUSIC.

PLAY ENDS